BIOGRAPHY
OF
JOHN HUSTON MARVIN

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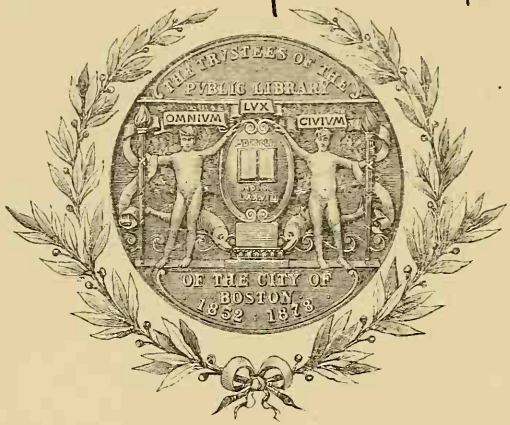

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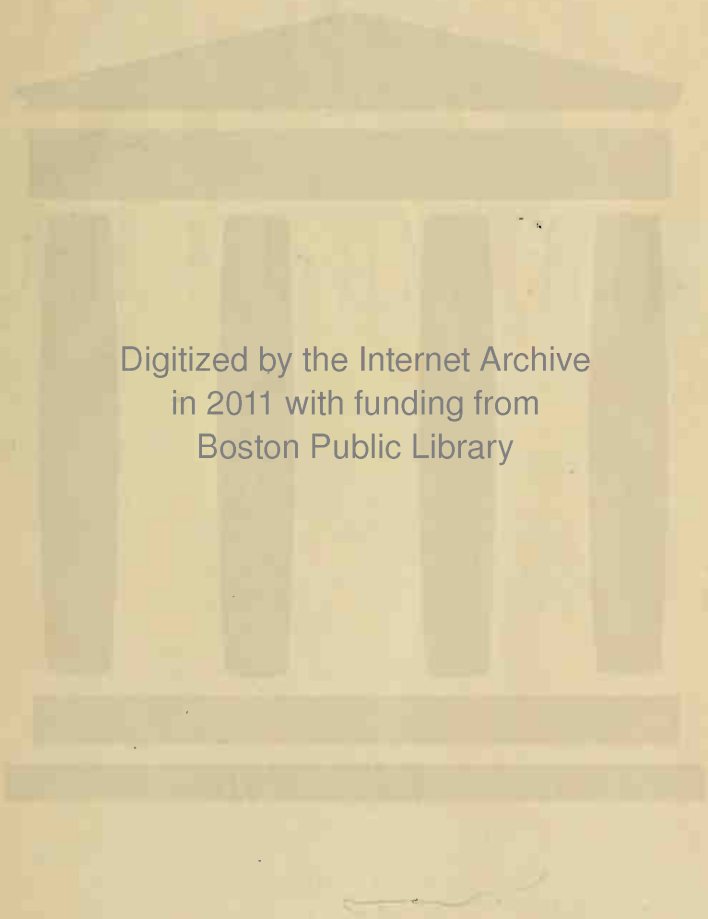
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BIOGRAPHY

of

JOHN HUSTON MARVIN

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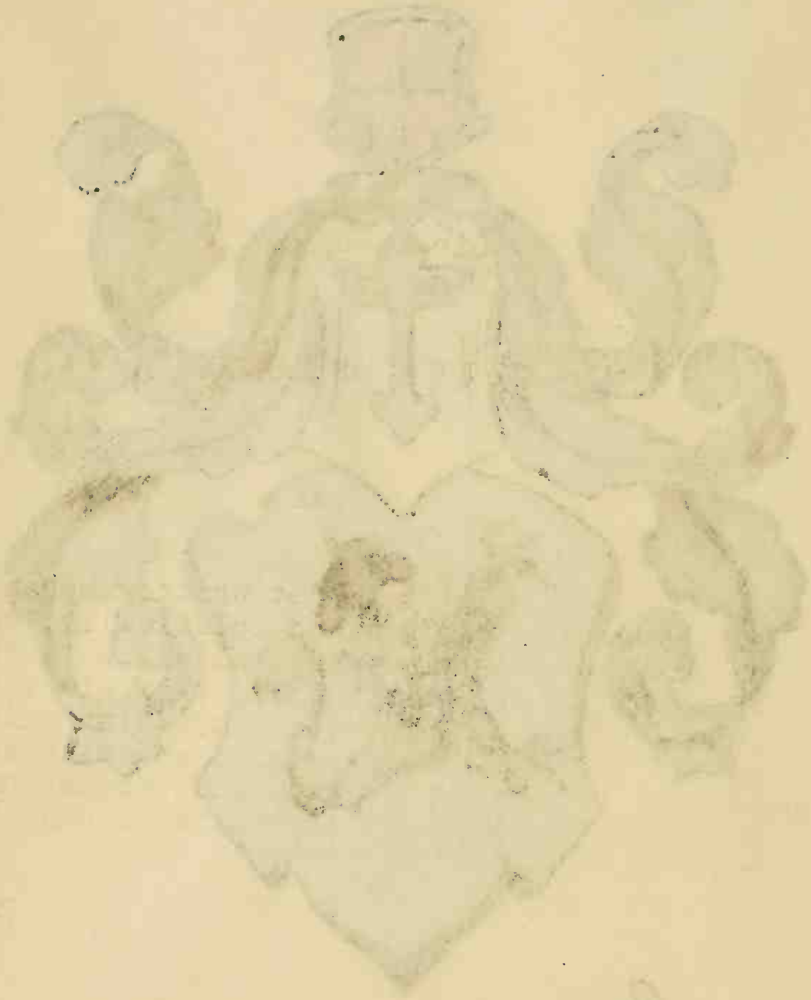
THE MARVIN FAMILY COAT of ARMS



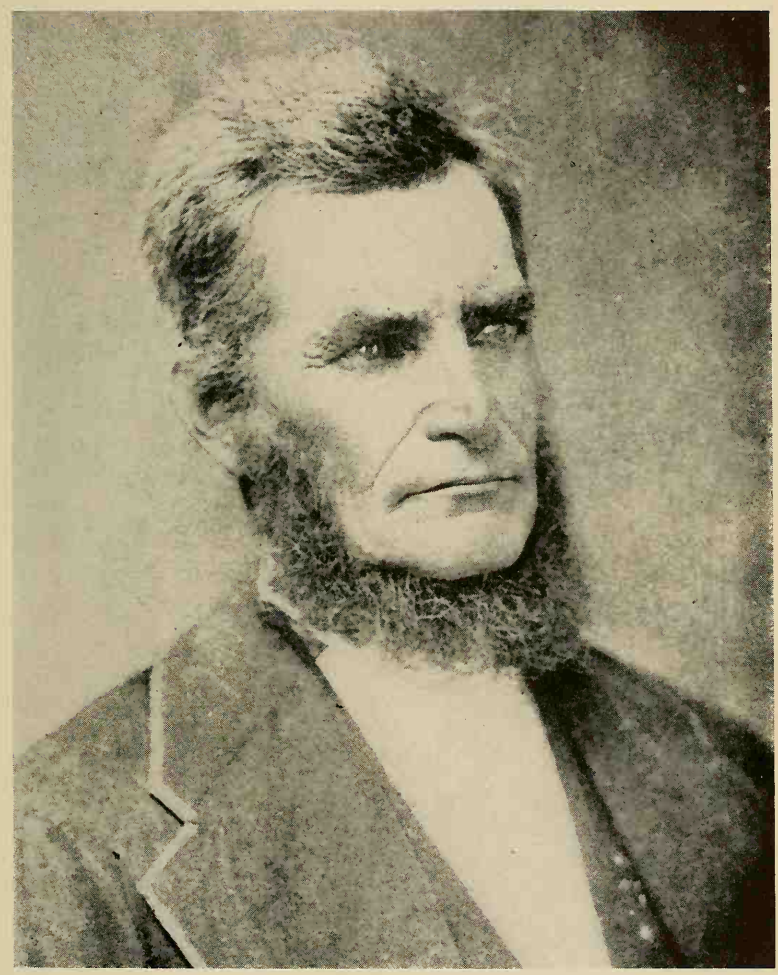
Biography of

JOHN HUSTON MARVIN

Preface

This biography is not written because of any greatness attained politically, socially or otherwise; but solely with the thought in mind that the light of his fine intellectual and devoted Christian character might not be over-shadowed with the passing years; but might find further expression in someone travelling along the road of life.

Ed.



HENRY MARVIN — 1771-1848

See Marvin Family History Page 121

HENRY MARVIN

In order to portray the ancestral background of our subject the author presents herewith a brief sketch on the life of the ancestral grandfather of our subject, Henry Marvin.

Henry Marvin, whose genealogical chain is more fully described in the Marvin Family History, pages 88-122 and in the Van Horn Family History, page 165, was born February 2, 1771, in Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey, where he spent his entire life. On January 10 1805, he married Anna, daughter of Cornelius and Kate (Wells) Van Horn. To this union there was born ten children of which Ezra, the father of our subject was the seventh child, born January 19, 1817, and whose biography is briefly outlined on page 201 of the Van Horn Family History.

Henry Marvin was a farmer which occupation he followed his entire life but he was also a public spirited citizen and took a great interest in the educational and religious life of the community in which he lived and he gave the ground for erection of the Dutch Reformed Church at Peter's Valley otherwise known as Bevans, New Jersey, and of which organization, both he and his wife were active members to the day of their deaths and are buried in the burying grounds adjoining the church and their graves are well marked.

He was a very successfuly farmer and was a possessor of a large estate, for a man of his day and he willed at his death a farm to each of his surviving children.

He was highly esteemed in the community as a man of sterling character and of a stern but lovable disposition yet just and firm in all his dealings.

Marvin A. De.Van Horn for many years a noted Philadelphia attorney, was also a grandson by his tenth child, Lucinda, who married Garret Van Horn, for many years a Methodist Clergyman who had issue of one child, the said Marvin A. Delambertine Van Horn.

RACHEL (HUSTON) MARVIN

EZRA MARVIN

Ezra Marvin, the father of our subject was born January 19, 1817, at Bevans, Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

He was a student in the schools of New Jersey where he received a fair common school education and as a young man worked on the farms owned by his father. Being both ambitious and studious, he improved his education, becoming recognized in his community as a well read young man of well applied ability.

On January 25, 1840 he married Rachel Huston, an accomplished daughter of Col. John and Anna (Shafer) Huston of near Stroudsburg, Penna. Soon thereafter he purchased a property about three miles west of Stroudsburg, Penna., known as the "Rising Sun Hotel" which he successfully operated for a number of years. During this time he refused an offer of an even exchange of the hotel for a tract containing 7,200 acres in Lackawanna County, Penna., being the same tract on which a large portion of the city of Scranton now stands. A tract rich in coal deposits though undiscovered at the time, but which was soon thereafter discovered.

Ezra Marvin was a man of great physique and strength, standing 6 feet ½ inches in height and weighing well over 200 lbs. It was not an uncommon sight to see him lift from the ground two men of average weight, at arms length at one and

the same time or to carry a man seated on a chair, at arms length by his grip upon a rung of the chair.

It is said that on one occasion he came upon six men fighting viciously, with a crowd of spectators standing around watching the fight as if gladiators were fighting in the bull-rings of Mexico, when he crowded his way to the fighters then separating them so rapidly they hardly knew what had happened, he shouted, "Stop that fighting now, and if you want to fight, fight me". He had no challangers and the fight stopped.

He was nevertheless, always a champion of right and justice and for many years he served Monroe County as Justice of the Peace, and he knew no politics or favoritism in his administration of Justice.

His wife, Rachel Huston, was of different physique, never having gained a weight in excess of 100 lbs., but bore him ten children of which our subject was the second. She died March 20, 1873.

Ezra Marvin, following the death of his first wife married Jane Broadhead (1875) a greatly beloved and refined maiden lady of Dingmans Ferry, Pike County, Pennsylvania, who died September 25, 1891 from injuries sustained in a run-away accident when the horse they were driving became frightened. She was indeed greatly beloved by his entire family who held her in high esteem.

Ezra Marvin spent the major portion of his life in Stroud and Jackson Townships Monroe County, Penna., and died August 19, 1890 and is buried in the Shafers School House Cemetery three miles west of Stroudsburg in Stroud Township, Monroe County, Penna.

RACHEL (HUSTON) MARVIN

Rachel Huston born September 6, 1816 on the farm still known as the Huston farm situate near Shafer's School House in Stroud Township, Monroe County, Penna., was the ninth child and third daughter of the late Col. John and Anna (Shafer) Huston.

She was indeed a woman of fixed opinion and with a deep religious conviction of unfaultering faith and devotion.

January 25, 1840 she married Ezra Marvin and as a result of which union she became the mother of our subject.

Though she became the mother of ten children she still found time for civic and religious duties and she organized and founded the Wesley Chapel Methodist Sunday School and Church becoming its first Sunday School Superintendent and first church class leader, both of which organizations have been functioning to this date.

The Rev. Isaac Teeter once said to the writer that "I cherish the memory of your Grandmother, Rachel Marvin, as my greatest spiritual adviser."

She died March 20, 1873.

JOHN HUSTON MARVIN

JOHN HUSTON MARVIN

Just as the frost of autumn, in the year 1842 had painted with exquisite beauty the trees of the forest along the mountain slopes of New Jersey, Dan Cupid's stork paid a second visit to a long, narrow, two story house of a common architectual structure of that day situated beside a babbling brook at a point near Tuttles Corners in Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey, the home of Ezra and Rachel Marvin, and there left on October 23, 1842, a second son, whom they chose to name John Huston Marvin.

It was at this place that he spent only the first two years of his life, as he was brought by his parents at the age of 2 years to a point 3½ miles West of Stroudsburg, in Stroud Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, where they established their future home and where our subject grew to a lad of 10 years.

While he, like his other brothers and sisters, spent the tender years of their lives in a licensed hotel where intoxicating liquors were sold and consumed, he, nevertheless, resolved in early childhood with a firm determination to be and remain for life a "total abstainer from all intoxicating liquor" and he was always thereafter an opponent of the saloon and to the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

At the age of 10 years his parents sold their hotel in Stroud Township and purchased a farm in Jackson Township, Mon-

roe County, Penna., where he grew to manhood.

After studying in the one room common school of Stroud and Jackson Townships, he attended the first Normal School Branch ever to have been established in Monroe County, located at Snydersville; and after completing his studies in that school, he began teaching first at Snydersville and taught for thirteen terms in various rural schools, then three to six months winter term, teaching at Tannersville, the Mountain School, Butz Run, Scribners and elsewhere. He was never censored by any school board for failure to keep order in his school room for order was of first magnitude with him as a teacher. He was many times commended as being a good disciplinarian.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, his father being a died-in-the-wool Democrat, declared that none of his sons could serve in the war; therefore when he was called to the colors, his father hired a substitute, as was permissible in those days.

In 1866 his father purchased the general store at Appenzell, Penna., and took his son, our subject, into partnership with him and placed him in charge as manager and which store he managed successfully for a number of years.

On April 30, 1867, he returned to Sandyston Township, N. J., and the next day, May 1, 1867,he drove with his fiancee Mary E. Merring, to Port Jervis, New York, where they were married.

Following his marriage they continued to operate the Appenzell store and teach during the winter months. Shortly after his marriage, he purchased his father's interest in the business. To this union there were born (6) children. They were:

1. Arthur Wade, b. March 18, 1868, who married September 3, 1891, Clara Metzgar and died December 29, 1918. He taught 18 terms of school in the one room rural schools of Monroe County, and for several years was a foreman for the N.Y.S. and W. Division of the Erie Railroad; he was a staunch Democrat, a Methodist and the father of 10 childred. He resided at Bartonsville, Pocono Lake, and Stroudsburg. For family see Van Horne Family History, page 273.

2. Rev. Theron Watson, b. June 21, 1870, married first, April 28, 1889 to Jennie Sipley, second, October 3, 1923, to Eleanor Vanzile. He studied at Allegheny College and was a Baptist Clergyman having served as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of East Stroudsburg and elsewhere, and supplied many pulpits throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He was a very fluent, extemporaneous speaker and was always in demand. In his latter years he was a Salvation Army captain at Newton, N. J. For family see Van Horne Family History, page 274. He died November 1, 1931, and was buried beside his first wife at Stillwater, New Jersey.

3. Joel Irving, b. January 1, 1872, drowned in a mill dam at Bartonsville, Pa. May 16, 1893, dying without issue.

4. Edgar, b. October 8, 1873, at Jermyn, Pa., died April 4, 1881.

5. Francis Merton (the author), b. April 14, 1884 at Swartswood, New Jersey, was brought by his parents at the age of 4 years to Bartonsville, Pa., where he grew to manhood. He was a student in the public schools at Bartonsville and East Stroudsburg State Normal School, later the State Teachers College. He taught for one term in the public schools, having taught at the "Loders School" in Stroud Township, following which he entered into a partnership with his father in the mercantile business at Bartonsville, Penna. This partnership continued for about 2 years during which time he organized and became the first president of the Monroe County Merchants Association, and at which time he purchased his father's interest in the business and continued to conduct same for about 18 months. He then sold same to John C. Alleger and in turn purchased a Queensware Store at 222 South Main Street, Wichita, Kansas. After conducting the store at Wichita, Kansas, for a few months, he traded business, stock, fixtures and equipment for an 80 acre farm near McPherson, Kansas and returned East to Bartonsville where he spent most of his life and where he served 16 years as a Justice of the Peace in and for Monroe County; 10 years as a school director; 4 years as Jury Commissioners Clerk and 4 years as County Coroner, during which time he has been actively engaged in the real estate and insurance business. He was twice married, first to Bessie Dornan Cruver, May 3, 1905, by which union he became the father of four children:

1. Harold Francis, now a resident of 792 Madison Avenue, Paterson, N. J.

2. Ruth Maria, now the wife of Forrest E. Motts, and residing at Bartonsville, Pa. For family see volume 6, page 391 in the Compendium of American Genealogy.

3. Ethel Lorraine, now the wife of John Kresge, Jr., and residing near Tannersville, Pa. For family see volume 6, page 391 in the Compendium of American Genealogy.

4. Doris Irene, now the wife of Henry D. Topfer, and residing at Bartonsville, Pa.

His second marriage on September 17, 1924, was to Nina L. Price Feltham, by whom there was no issue.

The 6th son of John Huston Marvin was Rev. E. Alton Marvin, who was one of the founders and first trustee of the International Holiness Bible School and College at (Buleah Park) Allentown, Pa. He is an ordained minister and was the founder and organizer of the Eastern Pennsylvania Prayer and Gospel Band at Lehighton, Pa., and for the past 11 years has been the pastor of that congregation which has grown rapidly since its organization, today owning clean and clear their small but very fine church edifice and are now branching out. He has also conducted special revival and camp meeting services at many points throughout the state and is still much in demand. He married early in life, Emma F. Custard, by whom there were no issue.

John Huston Marvin was always near to

his family and took a keen interest in their spiritual, social and financial welfare.

He was an excellent penman and at one of the County Teachers Institutes, was awarded the honor of being the best penman among the teachers of the County.

Religiously, he was always a staunch Methodist and of the Wesley and Wakefield type and he served every office in both church and Sunday School that that congregation provided at sometime during his life's career and although he passed from this life at 79, he never gave up his active attendence in Sunday School until forced to do so by reason of illness.

His favorite ministers and spiritual advisers were: Rev. George B. Kulp of Battle Creek, Michigan, whom he traveled many miles to hear and visit.He was also a deep admirer of the Rev. T. Dewitt Talmage and the Rev. Henry Hudson.

Morally he adhered vehemently to the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments as his moral and social code of ethics.

He was a great Bible student and a licensed exhorter and it can be well said of him he knew and loved the Gospel of his Lord and Christ. His favorite passages of the Scripture were:John 3.16; 2 Tim. 1.12; Gal. 3;20; 2 Tim. 4.7; and Ps. 23.

He loved nature and he loved to travel. He was in attendance at the Worlds Fair both at Chicago and at St. Louis and

at the age of 75 thought nothing of a ten mile walk, for he was also a great walker having walked while a young man from Stroudsburg to Wilkes Barre in a single day, a distance of 60 miles.

Politically he was a staunch Democrat and his political idol was William Jennings Bryant, for whom he traveled many miles to hear and whom he never failed to support whole heartedly. He served one term as a Justice of the Peace in Stillwater Township, Sussex County, N. J.

For 12 years, 1892 to 1904 he was postmaster at Bartonsville, Pa.

His motto was "Owe no man anything."

He maintained and was a strong advocate of family worship and the family altar. His views on that subject can best be expressed in the following verse:

Rear you an altar that will last forever:
Longer than any shaft or marble dome;
Erect it there beside your own hearthfire,
The chaste, white family altar in the home.
Chisel the Word of God upon the waiting
Hearts and minds of the dear ones gathered there—
The blowing sands of time will not erase it;
Nor friction dim the imprint of your prayer.
For memory will hold those chiseled letters,
And prayer shall be imbedded in the heart.
And the children whom you love will not depart

From the way of life....The Word will last
forever,
Though earth and heaven itself should pass
away—
If you have not as yet begun the building,
Of that eternal altar—start today!

The essence of his daily morning prayer can best be expressed as follows:

O God, for another day, for another morning, for another hour, for another minute, for another chance to live and serve Thee, I am truly grateful. Do Thou this day free me:

From fear of the future;
From anxiety of the morrow;
From bitterness toward anyone;
From cowardice in face of danger;
From laziness in face of work;
From failure before opportunity;
From weakness when Thy power is at hand.

But fill me with:
Love that knows no barrier;
Courage that cannot be shaken;
Faith strong enough for the darkness;
Strength sufficient for my tasks;
Loyalty to Thy Kingdom's goal;
Wisdom to meet life's complexities;
Power to lift men unto Thee.

Be Thou with me for another day and use me as Thou wilt; in Christ's name I pray. Amen.

He died June 2, 1920, repeatedly saying in his passing "Bless the Lord Oh My Soul and all that is within praise his Holy name."

He lies buried in the cemetery near Shafer's School house, two miles West of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Penna., awaiting the coming resurrection of the just who lived by Faith; but in the hearts of those who knew him best, he lives today.

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BARTONSVILLE STORE AND POST OFFICE

This home and store was owned by our subject from 1892 to the time of his death June 2nd, 1920 and where the writer spent his early boyhood days.

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